

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7, 9 and 14-15 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Introduction

Claims 1-15 are pending in the above application.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 5-7, 9 and 14-15 are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim but containing allowable subject matter.

II. Amendments

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended to more particularly point out that which Applicant regard as their invention therein. Particularly, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the inner shell is composed of a plurality of split shells joined together in a direction transverse to the penetration hole. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 10 may be found at least in Figure 3 and at pages 9-13 of the specification. Claims 4 and 12 have been amended to correct grammatical errors. Claim 11 has been amended to conform to the amendment of claim 10.

Allowed claims 5-7, 9 and 14-15 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims.

No new matter has been added by the above amendments.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP Pub. 2000-095532 (hereafter “the ‘532 reference”).

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference as arranged in the claim. See, Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int’l Trade Commission, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986); Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 220 USPQ 193, 198 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

The ‘532 reference does not disclose or suggest to use a mold comprising a shell having a penetration hole wherein the shell includes an outer shell and an inner shell disposed inside of the outer shell, the inner shell being composed of a plurality of split shells joined together in a direction transverse to the penetration hole, as recited by amended claims 1 and 10. The ‘532 reference discloses a mold 23 which holds a middle mold 24 having an upper mold 24a and a lower mold 24b. See, Fig. 5. Upper mold 24a and lower mold 24b join to form the middle mold 24 by joining in a direction along the length of the opening of mold 24. See, Figs. 2, 4 and 5. The ‘532 reference does not disclose a shell composed of a plurality of split shells by being joined together in a direction transverse to the penetration hole.

Accordingly, the ‘532 reference does not disclose or suggest each and every element of amended claims 1 and 10, and hence does not anticipate amended claim 1 or 10. As claims 2-4 and 8 depend on amended claim 1, and contain all of the limitations thereof, and claims 11-13 depend on amended claim 11, and contain all of the limitations thereof, the ‘532 reference also does not anticipate claims 2-4, 8 and 11-13.

IV. Conclusion

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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